

Pfropfen, pfropfen, pfropfen

Beitrag von „LEM“ vom 1. August 2016, 22:10

Opuntia humifusa has several advantages: easy multiplication, small paddles (occupy small pots), easy engraftment of the grafts, resistance to cold / moisture / diseases, rapid rooting. But there are some disadvantages: in winter, the paddles shrink a lot, the graft grows rapidly initially and then slows down, are not a long-lived rootstock (sometimes dry out; they are not adequate to support the weight of a adult graft), high summer's temperatures stop their growth.

I avoided these problems by using another opuntia (perhaps it is *Opuntia cardiosperma*?). Only small flaws: it is less resistant to the cold of *O. humifusa* (but it bears occasional frosts down to 4-5 degrees below zero) and requires more space.

To achieve a stronger growth graft, I recommend you choose a large paddle, one year old, and do not cut it too low. Greater will be the photosynthetic surface, greater will be the force imparted to the grafted bud.